

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please make the following changes to the specification:
2. Please replace the title of the application with the following re-written title:  
~~AN OPTIC FIBRE DEVICE~~ FIBER STIFFENING ELEMENT
3. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 29, of Applicants' specification with the following re-written paragraph:

As depicted in FIG. 5, the carrier member is provided with a set of depth ~~markers 55~~ markers 57 that are formed in or mounted to the exterior surface of the carrier member 51. The ~~markers 55~~ markers 57 are positioned at pre-defined depths from the distal end 53 of the member 51 and so provide the surgeon with an indication of the depth of the member 51 within the cochlea 30. In the depicted embodiment, a marker is positioned at or about 8.5 mm from the distal end 53 of the carrier member 51. By inserting the member to this depth, the distal end will be positioned just short from the back of the basal turn of the cochlea, so ensuring that the surgeon does not cause the distal end to touch the wall of the cochlea 30, as is depicted in FIG. 5.

4. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 6, of Applicants' specification with the following re-written paragraph:

In the depicted embodiment, the ~~markers 55~~ markers 57 comprise a ~~moulded~~ molded protuberance in the member 51. In another embodiment, not depicted, a ~~coloured~~ colored silicone could be used as the marker. In this case, different ~~colours~~ colors can be indicative of different depths. In another embodiment, different marker types can be used for markers at different positions, ~~eg. 1~~ e.g., 1 dot or ring for the first marker two dots or rings for the second marker and so on. Materials different from that used to make the carrier member, such as platinum or other biocompatible materials, may also be embedded in the member to act as the markers.